

Constantine's Death and Character 3°7

no challenged comparison with the best of Princes; at s close he merited comparison with those of average erit and demerit. Both mentally and physically his ?od points were beyond computation and conspicuous > all. He was passionately set on winning military ory; and in his campaigns good fortune attended Lin, though not more than his zealous industry delved. . . . He was devoted to the arts of peace id to the humanities, and he sought to win from all ,en their sincere affection by his generosity and his actability, never losing an opportunity of enriching is friends and adding to their dignity.

This estimate agrees in its main particulars with lat of Aurelius Victor, who, after speaking of his onderful good luck in war (*niira bellorum felicitate*) id his avidity for praise, eulogises his exceptional srsatility (*commodissimus rebus multis*), his zeal >r literature and the arts, and the patient ear hich he was always ready to lend to any provin-al deputation or complaint, We have spoken of a marked degeneracy observ-Dle in Constantine as his life drew to a close, erhaps the clearest proof of this is to be found L a momentous step taken by him in 335, when e divided the sovereignty of the world among his eirs. Such a partition meant the stultification of his olitical career, for he thus destroyed at a blow the olitical unity which he had so laboriously restored at of the wreck of the system of Diocletian.

Eusebius gives us the truth in a single sentence hen he says that Constantine treated the Empire >r the purposes of this division as though he